MONTEREY NEWS

April 2012
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The Town

by Maggie Leonard

Town Meeting, Town Election

The Select Board has scheduled the annual information meeting on Friday April 27, at 7 pm at the Monterey Firehouse. The purpose of the meeting is to help citizens prepare for the annual town meeting on Saturday, May 5. Items on the warrant will be reviewed and discussed, and members of various town boards, committees and departments will be on hand to answer questions.

The election for Monterey town boards and officers will be held on Tuesday, May 8, at the firehouse. Historically the election was held during the annual town meeting, but last year's town meeting voted to hold the elections on the Tuesday following town meeting. The change in day is designed to allow the election workers, and everyone else, to focus attention on the warrant items.

Police Department New Hire

On March 5 the Select Board met with Police Chief Gareth Backhaus and John Mullen, a candidate to fill the vacancy for a part-time police officer. Mullen is from the local area and his interest in the position was sufficiently keen that he had already participated in "ride alongs" with current Monterey police officers on his own time. The Board unanimously voted to appoint Mullen as a part-time officer on a probationary basis until June 30, 2012.

Town Bylaw Alarm Regulations Revised

In other Police Department news, Chief Backhaus, working with Fire Department Chief Shawn Tryon, has proposed a new Alarms Systems Bylaw and presented it to the Select Board for

Glynis Marsh

Scott Cole, new owner/proprietor of the Monterey General Store explains his plans for the store to a large, very interested audience at March 21st community potluck. *See related story, p. 8.*

inclusion on the annual town meeting warrant. The proposed revisions to the current bylaw include new definitions that clarify the parties involved (installers, users, dispatchers) and reflect changes in alarm system technology (gone are any references to dialing devices and the like). The new bylaw includes a $25 filing fee, a schedule of fines, and a requirement that alarm systems users purchase an item called a Knox Box Rapid Entry System. A Knox Box is a small, wall-mounted safe that holds building keys for fire departments, emergency services, and police to retrieve in emergency situations. Local fire companies can hold master keys to all boxes in their response area, so that they can quickly enter a building without having to force entry or find individual keys held in deposit at the station.

The Knox Box is particularly valuable for absent homeowners when the Fire Department responds to alarms. The Fire Department is mandated to make entry "by any means necessary to determine the nature of the alarm." If the homeowner is not on the premises and the premises are locked, that can mean breaking down a door or breaking a window to perform an investigation. In the Alarm Bylaw revision Knox Boxes are required to contain a complete set of access keys, a laminated list of emergency contact information, and the alarm code. Homeowners with existing alarm systems are required to install Knox Boxes within six months.

Citizens United Petition on Town Meeting Warrant

In an effort to think nationally and act locally, Monterey residents Pat Salomon, Shirley Olds, and Nancy Beach approached the Select Board on March 5 to present a citizen petition for inclusion on the annual town meeting warrant. The petition supports a constitutional amendment to overturn the January 2010 Supreme Court ruling on Citizen's United v. Federal Election Commission that states that corporations and incorporated unions have First Amendment rights to spend unlimited funds to support or oppose candidates for elected office. Those opposed to the ruling have publicized the decision with the now-familiar motto "Corporations are not people."

Salomon said that Great Barrington and Williamstown have passed the measure, and the petitioners seek to have Monterey on record as objecting to the Supreme Court decision giving corporations "person-hood." Salomon reported that she collected signatures at the transfer station and that everyone she approached wanted to sign the petition and no one voiced any opposition. Both Salomon and Olds assured the Board that they would have a spokesperson present at the annual town meeting to respond to any questions about the article. After conferring with Board chair Burkhart on some logistical questions, Select Board member Scott Jenssen stated, "I support this 100 percent." (See related story, p. 12.)

Remote Participation in Meetings Allowed

The Select Board reviewed and adopted the new Commonwealth of Massachusetts Regulation (940 CMR 29.10) to allow remote participation by town board members in meetings when they cannot attend in person. The authorization shall apply to all subsequent meetings of all local public bodies in the Town of Monterey. The new law encourages members of public bodies to attend in person whenever possible, and stipulates that nothing in the Remote Participation Law shall be used in a way to circumvent the Open Meeting Law. The law outlines what public bodies are allowed to use the law and the approved circumstances for using remote participation, including personal illness, personal disability, emergency, military service, or geographic distance. This is great news for town boards when one or more members may be out of town for

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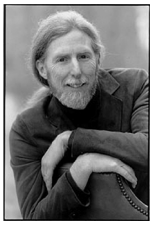

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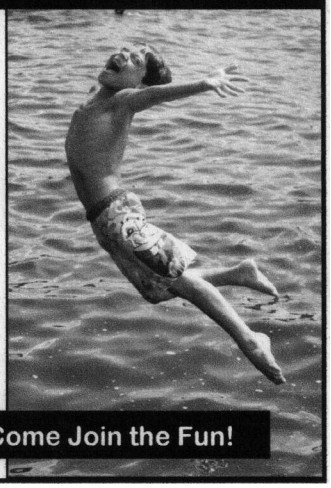

Come Join the Fun!

extended periods of time; until now the remaining board members had to operate with fewer participants.

Members Sought for Monterey School Subcommittee

The Select Board reviewed recent actions and votes taken by the Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee and, based on discussions at recent School Committee meetings, feels it is possible the Monterey School may be singled out in the next year as a likely target for closure. It is in Monterey's favor that the town has an active and vocal opposition to closing the school, and Monterey resident Mari Enoch is working with the group Save Our Schools (SOS). Ex-Select Board member Muriel Lazzarini has also been attending the School Committee meetings and is another advocate for keeping the Monterey School open. Lazzarini and Finance Committee member Stan Ross discussed various options with the Select Board for making the small local school more viable, such as programs that would include younger children, three years old and up, and integrate daycare, a jointly operated school/community center, and programs that would attract students and parents from outside Monterey. Select Board chair Wayne Burkhart said the key is town involvement, and he wants to move the issue from the Select Board into the larger community. Both Burkhart and Jenssen requested that a subcommittee/study group of five to seven people be formed to work in coordination with Monterey's representative on the School Committee to determine the best course of action for the future of the Monterey School.

Steve Graves

Baseball in March in Monterey? Thanks to mild weather, youth baseball in South County got its earliest start ever at Monterey's Greene Park. The field was game ready on March 18 when 8-12-year-old pitchers, catchers, hitters, and runners from Monterey, Otis, Great Barrington, Sandisfield, Mill River, and surrounding towns reported for spring training and an exhibition game. Players of all levels are welcome to sign-up for South County Cal Ripken Baseball now; there will also be one game a week for 5-7-year-olds using tennis balls. For information contact Jim Edelman, cljvedelman@aol.com or Steve Graves, sgraves8@yahoo.com or 413-269-4632.

Update on AG Investigation of Alleged Violation of Open Meeting Law

The Attorney General Office requested that the Select Board provide copies of any and all written correspondences, including emails between members of the Monterey Select Board and the Interdepartmental Secretary, regarding the Board's January 9th meetings that were sent or received between and including December 19, 2011, and January 9, 2012. A former member of the Select Board, Jon Sylbert, filed a complaint with the Attorney General and subsequently resigned when the agenda for the January 9th Select Board meeting included Executive Session as an agenda item, which Sylbert contends is a violation of the Open Meeting Law. Town Interdepartmental Secretary Melissa Noe informed the board that she has sent all the information requested to the Attorney General's Office.

Select Board Meets with Attorney on Employee Contracts

On the advice of Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard the Select Board met with attorney Fred Dupere at their March 12th meeting. Over the past months the Select Board has been negotiating with the seven full-time town employees over compensation and benefits. The town employees submitted a list of requests, one being the implementation of three-year contracts to increase job security. Pollard, having no expertise in this area, referred the Select

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Board to Dupere, who has specialized in labor relations for thirty-four years and represents over sixty municipalities and schools throughout Massachusetts.

Dupere stated that he reviewed the minutes from recent meetings between the Select Board and the employees, as well as the compensation and benefits proposals submitted by the employees. The most common terms for contracts are from one to three years. Dupere explained that the primary issue with a multiyear contract with regard to salary increases is that if the amount is not approved at the town meeting then the town would be in breech of contract. He suggested a possible remedy would be to add a "re-opener" to the contract for years two and three. During the meeting Director of Operations Maynard Forbes explained that the purpose behind the contract idea is to increase job security and morale among the town employees.

Dupere said that he has worked with towns that have employment contracts with nonunion personnel and that those contracts are never for each employee, but are more common for those in management, such as directors, engineers, or high-level administrators. The employees of the Town of Monterey are considered "at will" employees, and they are entitled to all benefits currently available. Finance Committee member Ross suggested that a clearly spelled-out employee handbook outlining benefits might be a good alternative. Dupere agreed that would be helpful and explained that the town meeting does not hire employees and therefore cannot discuss or vote on any individual's employment or performance at town meeting. The Select Board noted that the goal is to give the employees a sense of security and to protect them from acrimonious debate at the annual town meetings. Dupere said he does not recommend separate listings of each employee's salary on the warrant and also recommended prioritizing and pursuing the issue most important to employees: most likely salary increases. Dupere said that after town meeting the group can explore the complexities and legal issues that contracts or collective bargaining agreements might bring up.

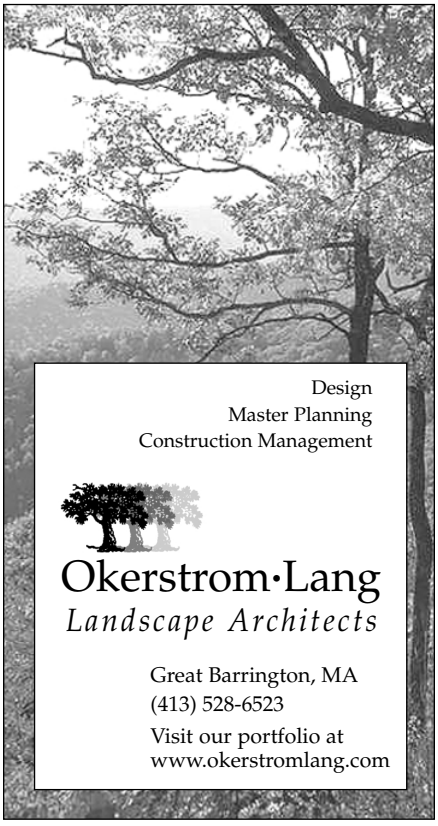
Finance Committee Working on FY 2013 Budget.

The Finance Committee continued to work with the Select Board throughout the month of March on the FY 2013 town budget to be presented at the May annual town meeting. Finance Committee members Stan Ross and Dan Moriarty were regulars at the Select Board meetings and worked with the Board to hammer out the details. Budget items as they appear on the warrant for the annual Town Meeting will be addressed in detail in the May issue of the *Monterey News*.

Ross reported that health insurance rates rose 5.98 percent for the seven full-time employees and one former elected official (who is covered by Medex), resulting in a total increase of $7,250. This cost was computed using the current 90/10 formula of splitting health insurance costs with employees (town 90 percent, employees 10 percent).

Both the Select Board and the Finance Committee have agreed to support a 4 percent across the board salary increase for town employees and for paid appointed and elected officials with the exception of the Select Board and the Assessors, who will see no increase in their yearly stipend. Select Board chair Burkhart stated, "This is a little complicated and I want to go on record with this; I am uncomfortable as a social justice person and I don't like percentages. That's because the people at the lower end of the wage spectrum get less and people who already have more get more." Burkhart added that some of the raise is a cost of living increase.

Burkhart submitted a request to the Finance Committee from the Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House (FWMH) for a $10,000 request to be included on the



warrant for their Community Center Capital Campaign. As reported in an article in the March *Monterey News*, the FWMH is an all-volunteer group of citizens seeking to raise $165,000 to pay for necessary repairs and renovations to the structure to make it community center.

Finance Committee members Ross and Moriarty asked if the FWMH proposal provided any details for how they were going to get the rest of the $165,000 they need. Burkhart replied that they have applied for several grants and that the local Turkey Bush Foundation has promised a matching grant for funds raised. Ross suggested that perhaps the town could contribute funds after a certain amount of money has been raised. To which Burkhart replied, "How skeptical do you want the town to be? I'm not skeptical, I'm all for it; I think this is an investment in our future. I also have to be conservative with the town's resources; however I am all for this." Moriarty added that he would like to see more information about how the money would be used. Burkhart responded, "You want to see a detailed budget? So far the committee has re-roofed the house and removed the oil tanks, all without public money. I think they have a great track record." Ross said, "What if they fall short of the $165,000? What if they only raise $10,000 and it's our [the town's] $10,000?" Burkhart replied, "I feel like I'm hearing some kind of prejudice!" Ross countered, "Are you kidding? My wife served on that committee for several years! I'm just trying to figure out what happens if they don't raise the money." Burkhart replied, "I have an email that has a long-standing timeline that goes up to February 2013.

The FWMH have applied for grants; they are looking for a $40,000 grant that will be announced in June, a Berkshire Bank grant for $30,000 that will be announced in April, and a grant from The High Meadow Fund that maybe we'll know about by town meeting. It's a small amount of money and we should put it before the town." It was decided to put the request on the warrant.

At the March 26th Select Board meeting Board members Burkhart and Jenssen and Finance Committee members Ross and Moriarty met with Scott Gennari of Gennari Plumbing and Heating Inc. to discuss the heating and cooling needs (HVAC) of Town Hall. Temperatures vary widely in Town Hall, but generally speaking, the offices in the new addition (the offices of the Interdepartmental Secretary, Town Accountant, Tax Collector, Treasurer, and Town Clerk) are very cold in the winter and warm to hot in the summer. The old part of the Town Hall, the meeting room (where the Select Board meets) and the Assessors' office, are warm in the winter and very hot in the summer.

Gennari explained that his approach would be to create three zones and install a ductless mini-split system that would allow for individual installations in each room or zone without having to install new ductwork. These systems are considered an economic way to heat and cool old buildings outfitted with radiators or baseboard. Jenssen asked, "Would this supersede our existing heating system?" Gennari replied that it would not supplant the existing heating system but integrate with that system to achieving normal working temperatures in Town Hall. Gennari's report indicated that three outdoor condensers would be needed with one indoor unit for the meeting room, one unit for the Assessors' office, and three separate units for the reception office, Accountant's office, and Tax Collector's office."

The Select Board and Finance Committee members reviewed the estimate and clarified how many offices need the upgrade. The costs mounted quickly, and they considered approaching the project incrementally, working on the most used offices first and leaving the less used spaces (the meeting room is only used once or twice a week) for another year and another appropriation request. Gennari was scheduled to report back with figures, and a request for funds will be on the warrant.

Monterey Fire Company

Fire Chief Shawn Tryon met with the Select Board and the Finance Committee several times during March to prepare warrant items for consideration at the annual town meeting. Tryon informed the boards that the Fire Department is looking to upgrade to a rescue vehicle that will have medical equipment to help stabilize injured individuals until an ambulance arrives, with the cost estimated at $210,000. There will also be a request for new Jaws of Life equipment, including new air bags, new tools, a ram, a spreader, and hoses. Tryon

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said, "These tools are twenty-five years old and if they break you can't get parts. I think we did pretty good; twenty-five years on $25,000 worth of tools."

Tryon also informed the Select Board that he was working with Police Chief Backhaus on the amendments to the Alarm Systems bylaw and that he endorses the mandatory use of Knox Boxes so that the Fire Department can gain access to homes without having to destroy property.

Transfer Station Fees Going Up

The Select Board met with Director of Operations Maynard Forbes at the March 12th Select Board meeting to discuss the operation and finances of the Transfer Station. Forbes reported that the Master Garbologist, the garbage and recyclables hauler for the town, increased their fees for trucking and for the quantities hauled. Forbes said that last year the budget for the Transfer Station was not sufficiently increased, which has resulted in a deficit. The Select Board explained that they have always planned on the revenues from the Transfer Station sticker sales to cover 40 percent of the cost of running the operation. Forbes stated that the fee for the stickers is relatively low when compared to other towns, and that for the price of the sticker ($40) individuals are allowed to dispose of a lot of stuff with no additional fees for quantity, while other towns charge for the amount of garbage disposed. The Select Board said they would review the matter with the Finance Committee.

Select Board member Scott Jenssen said that he has recently been at the Transfer Station at various times, and he considers it poorly run; the attendant never emerges from the hut to check stickers, parking problems abound, the swap shop is a mess, and the dumpsters designated for large items and white goods are poorly loaded, resulting in a prematurely "full" dumpster because "some idiot put a couch crossways in the container." Jenssen said that he would like to see an employee of the town responsible for managing the Transfer Station.

At the March 26th Select Board meeting between the Board and the Finance Committee the issue of increased fees for the Transfer Station was revisited, and the Select Board approved increasing the sticker fee from $40 to $50. Finance Committee member Stan Ross said that, in his opinion, the Transfer Station fees should be included in real estate taxes with stickers mailed to each property owner.

MontereyFest in theWorks for August

Doreen Beller blew into the Select Board meeting on March 19 like a breath of fresh air and presented a plan to combine the elements of LakeFest with I Love Monterey Day for a new celebration, MontereyFest. Beller is recently retired, full of energy and ideas, and now lives full-time in Monterey. She explained that the MontereyFest committee wants to make the yearly celebration of LakeFest more of a community-wide event, instead of a Friends of Lake Garfield event, and bring together both families and folks who live here part-time and year-round residents. The committee plans to integrate all the key institutions in Monterey, including Gould Farm, the General Store, the Library, Bidwell House, and the Fish Hatchery, and they have enlisted the aid of the local/regional Berkshire South Community Center to help oversee swimming and water activities at Lake Garfield.

There are other plans in the works as well, such as music, dancing, relay races, a led walk on Diane's trail at Gould Farm, and a barbeque. At this point the MontereyFest committee needs to expand to a larger group of volunteers. What a great way to get involved in the community; it's an event that will benefit all members of the town, it's a relatively short-lived commitment (finished by August 19), and it's a great way to get to know your neighbors!

The proposed date for MontereyFest is August 18; there will be events and entertainment all around town, and, if the committee can get the donations, fireworks in the evening. Beller, a banker by profession, projected expenses to be approximately $6,000, and the MontereyFest committee is requesting $4,000 from the town to help support the event. Beller emphasized that, if granted, no town money would be used for the fireworks, apparently anticipating disapproval from frugal New Englander's about money literally going up in smoke (or perhaps the noise and explosions are controversial?). The request will be on the warrant at the annual Town Meeting.

A meeting on the progress of planning for MontereyFest will be held on Saturday, April 21, from 9:30–11:00 am in the Monterey Library. Everyone is welcome.

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Scott Cole to Open Monterey General Store in May

Breathe a big sigh of relief. By the first week in May, the Monterey General Store will be up and running. Scott Cole, longtime owner of Caffe Pomo d'Oro in West Stockbridge, fulfilled a ten-year dream when he closed on the general store in February. He'll bring to Monterey the tastes, aesthetics, and high-quality food he developed in the nineteen years he presided over the Caffe.

In 2002 Cole tried to buy the general store, but the plans fell through. "The minute I walked into the store, I realized it was right for me," he says. He believes there is a need for "general stores that provide the community with specific social and commercial purposes. Everyone here in town has seen what the general store's absence has meant."

Both the café and the general store are important to him. He plans to open daily at 6:00 or 7:00 am and close at 6:00 or 7:00 pm, except for weekends, when he will stay open later. Meals will be served until late afternoon.

The general store aspect is central to his plans. He envisions a "well-curated selection of grocery items." Among those items will be his own baked goods, including pies, tarts, scones, muffins, lemon squares, brownies, and biscotti baked on the premises. He also will sell his prepared foods, such as soups, salads, pastas, and other items that can be consumed in the store or at home. And while Cole is not a butcher, he will carry a selection of meats and poultry. To some people, such as this writer, the greatest news is that finally, at last, there will be a rotisserie for chicken. The mind boggles and the stomach grumbles.

Cole is a longtime member of Berkshire Grown and has developed good relations with many local farmers. He anticipates meeting Monterey farmers to round out the seasonal fruits and vegetables he plans to sell.

His biggest challenge is how to please the broadest spectrum of customers. For those concerned that the store might become too fancy or pretentious, he stresses that he wants people to come to the store because "it's a good place to come to." He plans to "lighten up the store to make the most of its inherent charms." The emphasis will be on good-quality and well-chosen ingredients that appeal to everyone. He also plans to keep the prices as low as he can to insure there will be a broad spectrum of customers.

An Albany native, Cole graduated from the College of St. Rose with degrees in fine arts and communications. He was a founding member of Storefront Artists in Pittsfield. He has maintained his interest in art and plans to convert a room in the upper reaches of the store for his studio. Cole believes that his background in fine arts helped his career in cooking. "I approach cooking like I approach painting—building flavor and texture that engage the senses."

Several years after college graduation, Cole rented a small cottage on the New York side of the Berkshires and spent a year resurrecting the orchards and gardens on the property. He helped out at a gourmet shop then in South Egremont, and from there stumbled into opening Caffe Pomo d'Oro. He had been wandering around West Stockbridge and saw a space that was for rent. He fell for it, rented it, and opened the café, which also featured general-store merchandise. "West Stockbridge welcomed me. My supporters were patient and generous in helping me figure out what worked and what didn't. Nineteen years later I'm still learning."

His decision to go into the food business can now be seen as a natural progression in his long-term interest in cooking. Marlena De Blasi, his father's second wife and now a distinguished cookbook writer and novelist living in Venice, helped him develop his culinary ideas and bolstered his confidence. "Check out *A Thousand Days in Venice*," he recommends. "It was a surprise best seller that launched her literary career."

These days Cole is busy repainting the general store as well as maintaining Caffe Pomo d'Oro. His enthusiasm for the revived Monterey General Store is palpable. His interest in and emphasis of good ingredients, local resources, and good food augurs well for Monterey.

— Laurily Epstein

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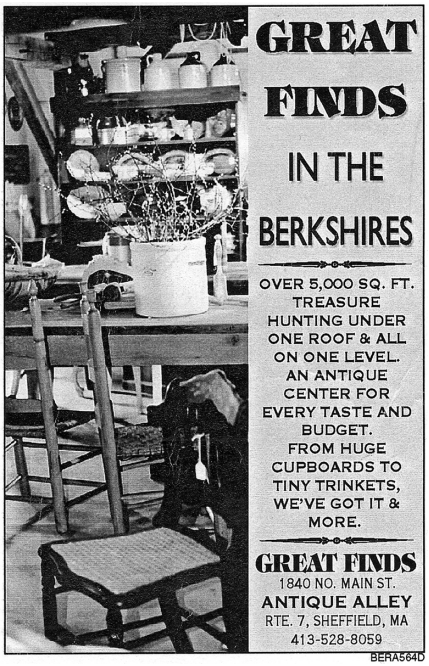

May 8th Town Election Slate

The year's election for town officers will be held on Tuesday, May 8, not on the same day as annual town meeting, which has been election day in the past. The new day was approved at last year's town meeting so that the election would not be disruptive to the meeting.

Below is the slate for the election. Two positions (highlighted in bold in list below) are being contested this year, the Select Board 3-year seat and the Planning Board 2-year seat.

Board of Appeals (5 years)
Robert Lazzarini
Board of Appeals (2 years)
Jonathan Levin
Board of Assessors (3 years)
Donald Hopkins
Board of Health (3 years)
Stephen Enoch
Cemetery Commission (3 years)
Linda Thorpe
Finance Committee (3 year)
Daniel Moriarty
Library Trustee (3 years, 2 seats)
Denise Andrus
Lois Storch
Library Trustee (1 year)
Lisa Smyle
Moderator (1 year)
Mark Makuc
Park Committee (3 years, 2 seats)
Joshua Allentuck
Emily Johnson
Park Committee (1 year)
Angelica Collins
Planning Board (5 years, 2 seats)
Maggie Leonard
Barry Karson
Planning Board (2 years, 1 seat)
Ian Jenkins or Roger Tryon
Select Board (3 years, 1 seat)
Kenneth Basler or Wayne Burkhart
Select Board (2 years)
Muriel Lazzarini
Town Clerk (3 years)
Deborah Mielke
Tree Warden (1 year)
Shaylan Burkhart

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Town Election Candidates' Letters

Each year the News *asks candidates for contested town offices, first-time candidates, and any other candidates who wish to write lettesr about their candidacy. Below are the letters received, with the two contested positions first.*

Select Board (3 years)

Kenneth Basler

We are at a critical juncture as we look to Monterey's future. Many decisions and regulations are being determined in Boston, and our ability to stay up to date on regulations, mandates, etc., is being seriously compromised. With this in mind, the Select Board has to provide the leadership that enables the town to be well informed and have the the ability to make timely decisions. This means an approach by the Select Board that is proactive, making sure that up-to-date information from every committee is readily available, and outreach to other towns and to our elected representatives at the State House in Boston is maintained.

Schools—If we, as a town, are going to take the position of saving our local school we must be in the lead and not following. The creativeness of the residents in Monterey has always been second to none, and it's that creativeness and problem solving we need now. Solutions are possible, but it's going to take a concerted effort from many. The Select Board should be out front in providing a forum for disseminating accurate information, especially for those who have questions about keeping the school open and how it will affect our tax rate.

High-Speed Internet—While the WiredWest committee has done a great job of getting us to this point it is critical that the Select Board again be out front on how this is being developed. When decisions for Monterey are made in Boston we must be ready to make sure nothing falls through the cracks. There is still a question about the school building and whether it will be wired with the other town buildings. This is the kind of oversight that the Select Board needs to be on top of.

Smitty and Ben—With more decisions being made or facilitated in Boston our State Representative and Senator need to be in close communication with

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the Select Board. We need them to look out for our interests, but in order for that to happen the Select Board must be in regular and informative communication with them.

Fire and Police—Our Police and Fire Departments are the envy of many neighboring towns. Well trained and equipped. It's up to us to make sure this quality of service continues, but in times of serious budget restraints we will be faced with increasingly difficult decisions. The ability to work closely with these departments along with other town departments concerning budget issues will not be easy and will require a Select Board that is creative in its thinking and open to new ideas.

It worries me that decisions are made for the comfort of elected representatives rather than for those that elected them. The move back to morning meetings for the Select Board and the change of the voting day from Town Meeting Day to the following Tuesday seems to call out for more thought and discussion.

As you can see, the common thread is information and communication. If you share my concerns for Monterey I would appreciate your support.

Wayne Burkhart

I am completing my second term as a member of the Select Board of Monterey, and am the Democratic Party candidate for reelection to a new three-year term.

I have enjoyed serving the town in this way, and I feel that my experience will make me even more confident and prepared to represent you in the coming years. My long service on the Planning Board and the Regional Planning Commission was a good preparation, but it was still a new challenge to serve as a Select Board member—learning the financial intricacies of town government, and listening to many ideas and opinions before making town decisions takes some time and practice.

I have attended many meetings to learn about issues and to represent the town. These include regional planning events and seminars, transportation planning, school business, work with neighboring towns, the south county veterans organization, Waste and Recycling (sbswmd) district meetings, and meetings with legislators and others.

I believe strongly in the town system of distributed government, and want to make it work even better. It takes a lot of trust and communication among our boards and commissions to allow each to contribute to the overall government of the town. The Select Board sometimes coordinates and advises, but should not usurp the authorities of other boards.

We are fortunate in our town to have officials, employees, and boards who are very responsible, conservative, and expert in fulfilling their duties. I am looking forward to working with you all to meet the challenges of the years ahead—the right direction for our schools, the proper services and facilities for us to offer as a small town, and the right decisions to make in planning for the future of Monterey.

Planning Board (2-year seat)

Ian Jenkins

I formally announce my intention to be a candidate for the vacant two-year seat on the Monterey Planning Board in the May 2012 elections. I would like to introduce myself.

I bought my first house in Monterey in 1983, and have continuously owned a home in Monterey since that time. Unfortunately, until this past year I had to remain a legal resident of New York.

I served in the Army as a medical corpsman in Viet Nam 1968–69. When I returned to the World, I went back to school for pre-med courses and entered medical school in 1971. After graduation in 1975, I received training in internal medicine, general psychiatry, and child/adolescent psychiatry. I specialized in disabled and handicapped children while developing intermediate American Sign Language skills. I was on the faculty of NYU-Bellevue Medical School for many years and 75 percent of my work and writings were involved with deaf and hearing-impaired adults and children. In the mid-nineties I simply burned out and evolved from a weekender to a year-rounder in Monterey.

At that time I became more active in the town affairs; served on the Board of the *Monterey News* for a number of years, served on the 1997 Sesquicentennial

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Celebration Committee for the town, and served as the associate editor, assisting Peter Murkett, (the editor) with the sesquicentennial book (approximately 200 pages). In that capacity I researched and wrote several sections. These included the history of the town, agriculture, etc. I was also involved with the Hanna Clemena Pixley material.

The economic background of agriculture and farming in Monterey was an essay in the sesquicentennial book and has features that are applicable today. Richard Tryon was particularly helpful in this research. Agriculture from the beginning until the early-mid nineteenth century was essentially subsistence family farming. Family farming continued, but in the early nineteenth century sheep and wool production increased. In fact Monterey was almost clear cut of timber, and sheep grazed to the top of the ridges. It is important to note that wool is a non-perishable agricultural product and rapid transportation to market is not necessary. During the last quarter of the nineteenth century railroads were extended into this area. They provided rapid transportation to metropolitan areas and production dairy farming became feasible. Over the past forty years dairy farming on smaller parcels has become uneconomical. For farming to remain viable, new farming in Monterey had to evolve; a perfect example is Rawson Brook Farm goat cheese, and Christmas tree farming, etc. The adaptations, incorporating traditional Monterey values, while accommodating economic realities, are the underpinnings of this town.

This is the concept of traditions and accommodations I would encourage on the Planning Board.

I ask for your support.

Roger Tryon

I am Roger Tryon and I'm running for planning board on the Democratic ticket. I am a lifelong resident of Monterey. Along with my parents and my wife I operate the 200-acre Lowland Farm here in town. I also own a landscaping and excavation business. In the past I served as Monterey's Tree Warden for over twenty years. I worked with the Monterey Land Trust for about the same amount of time, assisting in the preservation of over 1,000 acres of land in town. I am also a trustee of the James Underwood Crockett Agricultural Growth Fund, which supports 501(c)(3) New England agricultural businesses with grant money. I am now anxious to take on this active role in planning the future of our special town and ask for your vote in the upcoming election.

Select Board (2 years)

Muriel Lazzarini

I am Muriel Lazzarini and I would like your support of my candidacy for the two-year term on the Monterey Select Board. I have received the endorsement of both the Democratic and Republican Caucuses in town.

My family and I moved into our house in Monterey in 1989, and I have been a full-time resident since 1991. My civic experience has included being president of the Lake Garfield Association, serving on the Conservation Commission and the Board of Health, as well as six years on the Monterey Select Board. I am also a past Chair of the Monterey Democratic Town Committee. Among the broader community of the Berkshires I have been president of the Fairview Hospital Auxiliary, Chair of the Tanglewood Association of Volunteers, and served on the board of the Eagle Fund of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District; I also served as an Associate Board member and am now on the Human Rights Committee at Gould Farm.

Having been away from the Select Board for nine years, I will experience a learning curve, but it should be very short. I believe that I can contribute in a very positive way to the Select Board. Thank you for your consideration.

Town Clerk (3 years)

Deborah D. Mielke

I am writing this letter to introduce myself as candidate for the office of Town Clerk. I have been Assistant Town Clerk since October 2011. I have been at the town offices weekly since then and under the tutelage of Town Clerk Linda Thorpe I have been learning the various aspects of the job of clerk—the official record keeper for the town. In addition to

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my weekly tutorials, I have attended two professional conferences and will pursue additional educational opportunities as they arise. I've had hands on experiences as well, working from start to finish on the recent Presidential Primary election, posting agendas, writing out dog licenses, recording vital records (a birth)—all part of the clerk's duties.

The first office established in the newly settled Plymouth, Massachusetts, in the 1600s was that of Town Clerk. I'm pleased to be able to be a part of such a long tradition and honored to be up for election for the position in our town.

I would sincerely appreciate your vote in May.

Board of Appeals (2 years)

Jon Levin

I hope you will consider supporting my candidacy to be a full-time member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. I arrived in Monterey almost three years ago, and over the last year, I have served as an appointed alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. I have been an attorney in private practice for over thirty years with primary expertise in real estate development, land use planning, and small business. I believe I have the necessary experience and expertise to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals, and I would welcome the opportunity to continue to serve the Monterey community. Thank you for your consideration.

Library Trustee (1 year)

Lisa Smyle

I would like to introduce myself as a candidate for the Library Trustee position that has become vacant due to the recent resignation of Will Marsh. As a full-time Monterey resident for the past fourteen years, I have been a devoted patron and supporter of the library, and besides enjoying the many resources available (books, DVDs, online databases, etc.), I have also loved the cultural events hosted by the library and have attended puppet shows, musical performances, and book readings with my children. I've also volunteered for the annual book sale. Now I would like the opportunity to support the library in a new way as a Trustee, and would appreciate your vote.

Handwriting Program for April 18 Community Potluck

Scott Cole, the new proprietor of the Monterey General Store, was definitely the big draw at the March potluck supper, which was attended by over fifty people. It was a big welcome for Scott, who hopes to open the store at the beginning of May.

For April, we have Susan Bachelder , a resident of Egremont, who will speak on the history and art of handwriting and discuss where we find the Hand today. Susan, a "lefty," has always been fascinated by how we write. Attending a Rudolf Steiner elementary school on Long Island, she created her own style of writing. Her interest in the tools and materials for writing continued as she attended classes at the Art Student's League in NYC taught by Martin Oberstein, resident calligrapher at Tiffany's, while she pursued a career in advertising and international film production. As computers and texting take over communication, the loss of the cursive in our schools is beginning to show unforeseen consequences. Susan will also touch on the manuscript tradition and how digitalization has created access and issues in philology.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Supper will be held on April 18 at 6 pm at the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

— Barbara Dahlman & Kyle Pierce

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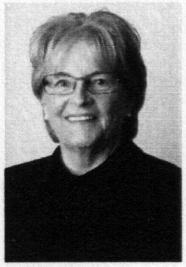

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Monterey Community Center Capital Campaign

The Capital Campaign for the Monterey Community Center is well under way with donations toward a matching-funds grant from the Turkeybush Foundation. The committee has also applied for one large grant which we'll hear about during April, and as this issue of the *Monterey News* goes to press, we are filing an application with the Massachusetts Cultural Council for a capital grant from their Cultural Facilities Fund.

These activities are a start toward our fundraising goal for the Capital Campaign of $165,000, which will pay for the necessary repair to the structure, the renovation of the main floor, and the acquisition of the equipment needed to create the functioning Community Center. We are committed to raising additional funds following this campaign for operation and maintenance costs. This project is undertaken by a group of volunteer Monterey citizens who have made a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House, Inc (FWMH), that leases the house from the Town for this purpose.

We welcome you to visit our website, www.ccmonterey.org, for much more information, maps, photos, and history. We are not set up for online donations, so please make your contribution checks to FWMH and mail to FWMH, PO Box 302, Monterey, MA 01245. All donations are fully tax deductible.

If you have questions about our plans or progress, please ask any one of our committee members: Mary Makuc, Laurie Shaw, Evelyn Vallianos, Shaylan Burkhart, Christine Goldfinger, Shirley Olds, Cynthia Weber, Lew Scheffey, Joe Baker. You can email us at: center@ccmonterey.org

Are Corporations People?
Citizens United Repeal on Town Meeting Warrant

It is now more than two years since the United States Supreme Court settled *Citizens United v Federal Election Commission (CU v FEC)* by deciding that corporations are persons, entitled to the First Amendment rights of people. This decision entitled corporations to use their wealth for unlimited contributions to election campaigns under the banner of free speech.

The response by ordinary people all over the country was immediate. How could the court confuse personhood with corporate entities? Do they breathe or bleed or give birth? Corporations have a single interest: profits. Their investment in elections is intended to bend the results towards candidates who will chose policies that add to their profits.

Many of us worry already about the huge investments corporations make to influence public policy through their lobbying expenditures. Now, large wealthy corporations would actually be able to buy the outcome of elections themselves and entangle elected officials in their policy/profit interests from the start. In instances where the needs of the public and the needs for profit are opposed, those elected to serve the public might easily be swayed to serve their financiers instead.

As we move toward the next election this fall, we are already seeing the tangible result of the *CU v FEC* decision with the huge increase of dollars into the campaign through super PACs. There is almost no possibility that anyone who is not rich could ever get elected to a major office. Do we want our country run by a wealthy oligarchy? Do we want our democracy to slip further way?

Communities, cities, even entire states are saying **no** to the court. Boston, NYC, Montana, and countless small communities have passed resolutions opposing the Supreme Court decision. They say that *CU v FEC* flies in the face of common sense— *corporations are not people*. Reversing the decision is a complex process. It requires a constitutional amendment. This is accomplished through an act of congress, which then must be ratified by two-thirds of the states. We can begin our part in the process by demanding that act of congress, to explicitly reverse the Supreme Court interpretation of the First Amendment. We need a constitutional amendment that explicitly states that *corporations are not people*.

We in Monterey can also take a stand against this decision. At our May town meeting, Monterey voters will have a chance to support a warrant resolution stating our town's opposition to the notion of corporate personhood. Democracy itself needs your support. Be there and vote for this resolution.

— Nancy Beach, Shirley Olds, Pat Salomon

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Monterey School Seeking Students for Next Year

The Monterey School still has openings for next year. The school will be a combined early K/K classroom with a teacher student ratio of about 1:5. If you know anyone who has a child going in to kindergarten, pass on the word that it is a special little school with lots of learning and fun.

In addition to reading, writing, and 'rithmetic, the school has art and music. Did we forget gym? That is part of the picture too, even ice skating periodically when Mother Nature allows. The school lunches are made by Gould Farm.

Every other week the children take a trip to the Monterey Library and have story time with Kate Basler.

Children from any town are welcome. Students have "choiced in" before from as far away as Becket and Sheffield. If you want to visit the school, just call 528-3693 during school hours 8:30 am–2:30 pm to set up a time.

IMPORTANT: Registration for the Monterey School is taking place through Undermountain Elementary in Sheffield. You need to tell them you want your child to be registered for Monterey School. Call the Undermountain Elementary principal's office (229-8754 x377) and request a packet. You want to do this ASAP.

Knox Gallery Events

The Knox Gallery at the Monterey Library is pleased to announce that Kit Patten will be showing his *Visionary Landscapes* during the month of May. This show will open on May 5, with an artist's reception on Saturday, May 26, from 7– 9 pm. More details will follow in the May issue of the *Monterey News*.

The theme of the Knox Gallery summer 2012 exhibition will be "Verdant Monterey." "Verdant" refers to countryside green with grass or other rich vegetation of the bright green color of lush grass. In a stretch of the imagination, "green" can also refer to the village green, the core of a community.

This exhibition will be a group exhibition open to all Monterey residents and friends. The exhibition will include work in all media. Start thinking now about how you may want to explore and interpret this theme: literally, figuratively, abstractly, reflectively, any way you chose. Details will follow in next month's *Monterey News* or you can call Ellen Grenadier for more information at 528-9973.

And if you haven't seen the current exhibit, *Monterey on Display*, a selection of historic photographs from the Monterey Historical Society, don't miss it. The exhibit, which has been garnering many *oohs* and *ahs*, runs until Saturday, April 28.

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Monterey Library Notes

Easter Egg Hunt April 8

The Monterey Library, with help of the Coffee Club, will sponsor this year's Easter Egg Hunt on on the library lawn on Sunday, April 8, at 2 pm. Children up to age twelve are welcome!

Stop in to see the exhibit of old pictures from the Monterey Historical Society and browse some of the Monterey Library's collection of Monterey's history. Take five minutes and see how the town has changed and not changed over time. We have a complete set of the *Monterey News*, as many years of the old town reports as are known to exist, and other books written about Monterey and Tyringham.

— Mark Makuc, Library Director

Volunteers Needed for Ice Rink Breakdown

Volunteers are needed to help with breakdown of the Monterey ice rink in the firehouse pavilion on Saturday, April 7, at 10 am. Bring a drill if you have one.

Coffee and doughnuts / goodies will be served.

Dog Licenses Due

New dog licenses were due by April 1, 2012, so if you haven't gotten one for your pet yet, now is the time to do so.. Proof of current rabies vaccination is required. The fees are $4.00 for spayed/neutered dogs, $10.00 for non-spayed/neutered. The Town Clerk's office hours are Wednesdays, 4—6pm and Saturdays, 9:30 am–12:30 pm.

Fire Department Says Thanks to Gould Farm

The Monterey Fire Department wishes to thank Gould Farm for its donation of breakfast foods on Sunday, February 26. Gould Farm's generous donation came on a morning when Monterey firefighters had spent more than four hours on a mutual aid call battling a blaze in Southfield.

From the Tax Collector

Fiscal year 2012 Real Estate and Personal Property bills for the fourth quarter have been mailed and are due May 1, 2012. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the tax collector's office (413-528-1443 x117). Please direct all questions regarding assessments, personal property tax, and abatement applications to the Board of Assessors, PO Box 488, Monterey MA 01245 or 413-528-1443 x115. Abatement applications must be received in the Assessor's Office on or before May 1, 2012.

Our pay online option has been expanded—taxpayers may set up an account and receive emailed reminders, and they now have to option to set the date of payment. In addition to MasterCard and Discover, the online payment option now includes Visa. Please remember all credit card payments are charged a fee assessed by the credit card company. Payments using checking accounts are free. To pay online, go to www.montereyma.gov and click on Pay Real Estate Taxes Online. You must have your current bill number on hand.

— Mari Enoch, Tax Collector

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May 1 Deadline for Berkshire County Scholarships

Several scholarship funds managed by Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation are accepting applications through May 1. Application information for the listed scholarships and for other scholarships is available at www.berkshiretaconic.org/grantseekers or by calling Berkshire Taconic, 413-229-0370.

McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund—Students who have lived in Monterey for the last two years of high school are eligible for grants. Merit is the primary criterion.

Caligari Family Scholarship—$1,000 scholarship available to graduating seniors from Monument Mountain Regional High School entering their first year of a two- or four-year college or university with a goal of pursuing a career in an art or design-related field.

Charles and Elinore Agar Scholarship—Students eligible for this $500 scholarship are graduating seniors of Monument Mountain Regional High School who are entering their first year of a two- or four-year college or university with a particular interest in science, engineering, history, or creative writing.

Ferris Burtis Scholarship Fund—Students eligible are graduating high school seniors who are full-time residents of the Berkshire Taconic Region and have been accepted in a conservatory or school of music for the fall term 2012 for the purpose of pursuing a career in some form of classical music.

Esther Samuels and Mabel Cornman Educational Scholarship Fund—$1,000 scholarship for a graduating senior of Lenox Memorial High School.

Guido Masiero Scholarship Fund—$1,000 scholarship available to graduating seniors at Monument Mountain Regional High School or Manchester Essex Regional High School (Manchester, MA) who are entering their first year of a two- or four-year college or university to pursue studies in physical education, health and wellness, or business studies.

Honorable James P. Dohoney Scholarship Fund—Graduating seniors from Monument Mountain Regional High School, Mount Everett Regional High School, Lenox Memorial High School, or Lee High School who are enrolled in a two- or four-year college program, are eligible for these $1,000 scholarships.

William J. Newton Scholarship Fund— $1,000 scholarship available to residents of Berkshire County who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a two-year program at a community college or a technology curriculum in a community college, technical, vocational, or trade school.

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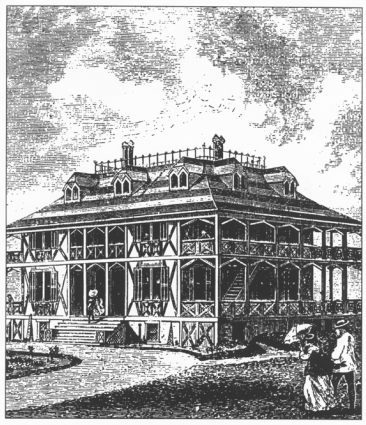

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Monterey Library Recent Additions

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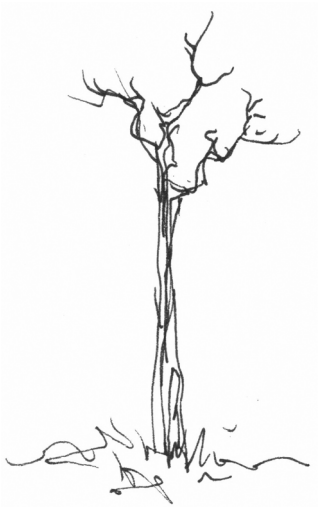

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Adventures of Tin Tin
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Immortals
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My Week with Marilyn

Adult Fiction
Red Plenty, Francis Spufford
Taken, Robert Crais
Friends Like Us, Lauren Fox
The Traitor's Emblem, Juan Gomez-Jurado
The Watch that Ends the Night: Voices from the Titanic, Allan Wolf
Dark Tango, Lewis Shiner
Fifth Victim: A Charlie Fox Thriller, Zoe Sharp
The Little Russian, Susan Sherman
The Detour, Andromeda Romano-Lax

Adult Nonfiction
The Muses Go to School: Inspiring Stories about the Importance of Arts in Education, ed. by Herbert Kohl & Tom Oppenhelm
The Royal Stewarts, Allan Massie
The Penguin Anthology of 20th Century American Poetry, ed. by Rita Dorr
Girl Hunter, George Pellegrini

Young Adult
The Girls of No Return, Erin Saldin
Pink Smog: Becoming Weetzie Bat, Francesca Lia Block
Steampunk! An Anthology of Fantastically Rich & Strange Stories, ed. by Kelly Link & Gavin J. Grant
Eternal Smile, Gene Luen Yang

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He was off to enjoy more of his world
Take any along who liked the ride
And let the rest go.

No one likes to die
Or box every day with God
Who can hit so hard
His quick hands, His long reach
The ring, the ropes.

We in his corner
Our champ slumped on his stool
Before lying too soon in his last bed
That wiry muscle undone
The slack flesh pulled flat on the sheets

As he broke free, and left us
At last—so soon!
Once all quick, now dead.

We're just kids.
What do we know
Of how to do this?
Live, then die
One time
Without practice
Perfectly.

— Peter Murkett

Checking on the Neighbors: Quacks Like a Crow

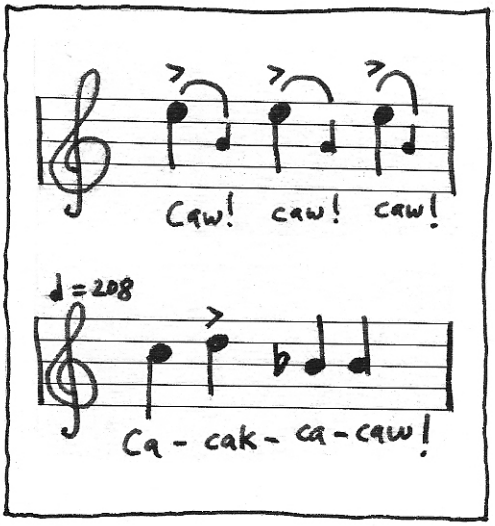
Most of us appreciate having neighbors, though we may not know them well or have them over very often. We walk by or drive by and note: smoke coming out the chimney, guess they are home. Or maybe: a new car? A visitor from some distant state? A gentleman caller?

Sometimes our neighbors are of a different species and we prowl by and note: water level is down in that pond. I wonder if the beavers have gone, or been trapped, or got washed out in the hurricane last year.

As social animals we have evolved to pay attention, to notice what's going on around us in the community. Recently one of my neighbors asked me how the beavers were doing, said he was concerned because certain ponds he kept tabs on didn't look so good just now. So I took a tour of ponds, and this is what I saw.

Some are a little low, one is completely blasted out but has a brand new lower dam, bringing the water level back up a bit. One pond that has always looked like the real standard for safe, strong, and healthy is up on a ridge in the state forest. I took a trip out there, with my binoculars polished up, back in that freaky March summer we had this year. This was the one where we all said, secretly, "I LIKE it warm out!" At the same time we shook our heads publicly, "It's just not right. If it's 80º F. in March, which is about twice what it ought to be, what will it feel like in July?" As if there were some reason to expect one thing to be related to another.

When I went to check on the Best Pond, I got out of the car and heard a lot of squawking of crows. I looked up in the bare trees, nothing odd. No bobcats, eagles, or whatever makes crows noisy. But my social animal self was curious about these neighbors now, so I followed the sound off downslope. I could see the ground got low and wet up ahead and wondered how far I'd bushwhack in sneakers looking for crow drama. This was loud cawing, but still no big dark birds up in trees. I began to think they were worrying over something on the ground.



Two short crow songs (from Matthews,1904)

Not wanting to alter the scene and scare off the crows, I got down on hands and knees and snuck along. No crows, no crows. The penny dropped when I got closer to the wet place: frogs. All that noise was coming from a little pond full of amphibians in full voice, in the middle of March. These were not peepers, but wood frogs, and crouching with my glasses up I could see little glossy dark heads breaking the water in even distribution, about one or two every square yard or so. Beyond the glorious chorus there was not much action. Now and then a few kicks of those long legs, a head gone under or just popped up. Everyone was facing the same way, toward the afternoon sun.

Pretty soon I caught the larger gleam of turtles. These were painted turtles oriented the same way, their dark shells catching the warm sun. They were pulled up on roots, stumps, fallen trees, and the banks, basking in the sun. I knew if stood up too fast, they'd slip quietly back into the water and the frogs would go quiet. As a social neighbor, I didn't want to interrupt their business; I only wanted to know they were there. So I backed away invisibly, and the sunbathing and hollering kept on.

Up on the ridge, I found the Perfect Pond looking good as always. The water level was right to the brim, and fresh mud splots showed that repairs and attentions were being given to the all-important dam. This pond has several houses or lodges. Some are out in the pond, some along the bank. Some look historic, with no new mud or fresh building material. Others look current, inhabited above and below. Beavers like to climb up on top and look around, also groom and straighten their coats, socialize sometimes, and snack on short pieces of twiggery they bring along. Under water, if you can look, there's a path

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strewn with nibblings where the beavers drop bare twigs once the bark is removed. Many of these sink and make a bright trail near the underwater doorway. Others may float and get to the surface under the ice in winter. These bring up against the dam after awhile, as there is always a current in that direction.

The Perfect Pond is home to at least one pair of geese. They came gliding around the corner and saw me, but were not concerned. I sat still. Then another couple came around, two blonde mammals, the resident beavers. One veered off to the opposite bank, and the other came right over to let me know I was a stranger, no matter how still I sat. This involved a couple of mighty tail smacks on the surface, and now the geese caught the worry and began their own alarm.

Out of respect I faded away and there was peace. Whatever is afoot with record high temperatures in March, the swamp neighbors are going about their business. When we get another cold snap they will go down in the mud and wait it out. We will probably do our own version of this.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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Bidwell House Offers High School Internships

The Bidwell House Museum is offering high school students with an interest in history, particularly local Berkshire colonial history, the opportunity to become a Young History Scholar Intern this summer.

The Bidwell House Museum is a 1750s New England heritage landmark that uses the history of its land, house and collections to re-imagine, re-create, restore, and research colonial and early American life in Western Massachusetts.

High school interns spend two weeks at the museum: in week one the intern learns about colonial Berkshire history, the Bidwell family, the house, the property and the collection, and how docents give tours; in week two each intern chooses a research topic and begins to give tours of the museum as a junior docent.

Recent summer interns have come from the following towns and school districts: Albany Academy; Convent of the Sacred Heart, NY; Dana Hall School; Great Barrington Waldorf High School, Houghton Academy, Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, Millennium High School, NY: Mt. Everett Regional High School; Monument Mountain High School; Monterey; New Marlborough; Sandisfield; South Lee; Tyringham; and Fort Mill, SC.

Thanks in part to generous grants from the Monterey Cultural Council and the Tyringham Cultural Council as well as private sponsors and friends of the museum, each high school intern receives a $200 stipend for the two-week internship. The museum is also seeking a college student for an eight-week internship.

Internship applications can be found on the museum's website: www.bidwellhousemuseum.org. Deadline for applications is April 30, and applicants will be invited for an interview. Please call or email Barbara Palmer, Executive Director of the museum, with any questions: bidwellhouse@gmail.com, 413-528-6888.

ॐ

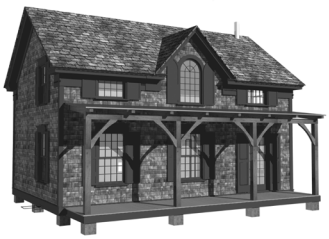
OK, What Movie Will It Be?

The Monterey Park Commission needs your help in choosing the movie for the annual Monterey Movie Night at Greene Park, to be held on Saturday, August 4.

We are asking everyone to please email your suggestions of movie titles you'd like to see at movie night to montereyparks@verizon.net. Past showings have included *Field of Dreams*, *Star Wars*, and *The Princess Bride*.

Please email your suggestions to the Park Commission before May 1. We will gather suggestions, narrow down the selection, and present a list of five great movies in the June issue of the *Monterey News* for all to vote on.

— Monterey Park Commission



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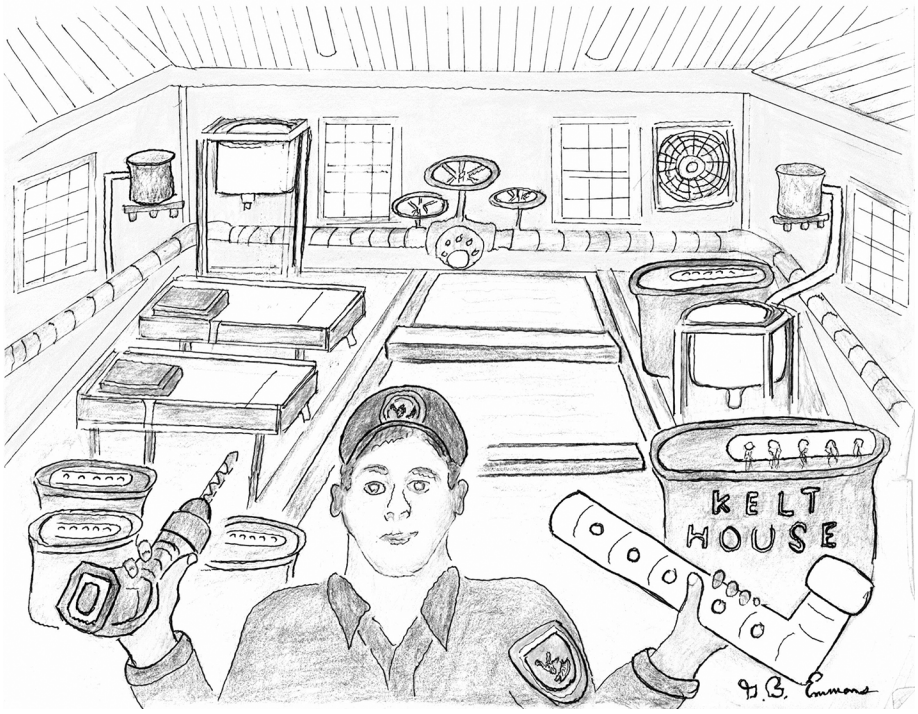
Jeff Mosher, Hatchery Craftsman



Jeff Mosher has been Biologist at The Berkshire Hatchery for the past two and a half years. When he came, he brought with him a Fisheries graduate degree from the State University of New York in Genesee. He is now twenty-seven years old and hails from Rochester New York, where he grew up as an avid and active outdoor young man, playing both football and hockey in high school and college. After getting his graduate degree, he began his career with US Fish and Wildlife Service at the Vermont White River Hatchery, then the Nashua, New Hampshire, Salmon Hatchery, and later the Sunderland Hatchery in Massachusetts.

When he landed here, he hit the ground running and soon set a track record for his hatchery achievements. He was never alone—John, Phil, and LeRoy were still involved, and Henry Bouchard, Senior Biologist at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Hatchery in North Chittenden, Vermont, was with him every step of the way, The Eisenhower Hatchery is our organizational sister as well as our operational big brother. Henry and Jeff have gradually updated us from one of the oldest facilities in the USF&W system while staying true to the mission founded by the John S, Scully Estate in 1919.

We learned from Jeff's family that even as a youngster he showed early signs of being constantly industrious. We also soon found out that in spite of taking on a new program of lake trout while also acting as property caretaker at times, he never let the grass grow under his feet. Always in perpetual motion making repairs to the ten fish pools, he found time to build a new aquarium in the wildlife center, surrounded by educational material displays for visitors. He also constructed and installed new public safety railings and walkways for visitors around the raceway and fishponds.

Jeff has also retooled much of the lower garage into a wood and metal repair shop. There are new power tools, wood lathes, welding equipment, and a workbench capable of constructing almost anything, including aluminum trays and PVC plumbing waterworks for the totally reconstructed Kelt House. This is another work in progress for the new hatchery research program involving Marcus Welker, a Dartmouth College fisheries intern. The entire Kelt House has been redesigned with the construction of new systems to measure migratory fish habits and homing instincts through scientific observations after the introduction of four different natural acids in the water.

Looking back to when Jeff was hired in the summer of 2010, the spinning wheel of fortune for this hatchery stopped at an even number at which he more than matched the qualifications of a diversified job description. And even if this hatchery has already had nine lives during a one-hundred-year history, at each crossroad outstanding people have stepped up to catch and carry the relay baton of our mission forward for future generations. Add two more names to the Berkshire Fish Hatchery honor role—Henry Bouchard, master hatchery manager, and one Jeff Mosher, dedicated fish biologist and craftsman.

— George B. Emmons

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"Garden Gustation"
What's cooking from Monterey Gardens & Farms

Spring is for Sprouting

April fools. Well, Mother Nature has brought us back to our senses and to real spring! As I write this it is cold outdoors and we are back to having fires in the masonry heater. That means it's still soup time in my mind. It's also time to use up what's left in the coffers before the growing season is once again upon us. I was having some friends over for lunch and wondered what veggies were left that needed to be eaten. I ventured down to the dark cavern beneath our cellar stairs where we keep the extra canned items, the garlic, and the onions. Despite the fact that the area is closed off by a heavy blanket, the garlic has begun to sprout. I reached in the dark for the large, hanging net bags that contain our onions and dragged one out to bring some onions to the kitchen. I was greeted by onions . . . with 4–5" green tops! Not all of them, but many of them. How did they know? They were definitely going to be on the menu! Onion soup it is! The sprouting tops can also be chopped like scallions and used in many dishes.

We have been having a very satisfying time raising onions the last four years. It's a vegetable that we can never have too much of. So many great meals are begun with the onions sautéing in the pan. We use a lot of them in our Glut sauce, our pickle canning, and our salsa, just to name a few. It made sense to grow onions. I have grown a few red onions, which are nice to have around, particularly for summer salads, but the onion we grow seriously is Copra. It is a *keeping* onion and one that boasts the sweetest flavor of the storage onions. We love it. Growing onions from seed would be the most economical way, but for now we buy live onion plants from Johnny's Selected Seeds. They sell them by the bunch, averaging 60–75 plants per bunch. It's a real deal when you buy five bunches, and you can't have too many onions, right? We try to grow enough to get us through the winter, so we indulge. I admit we share some plants with my parents, but the majority stays here.

When they arrive in the spring, they look like tiny, shriveled, dead onion plants. We faithfully plant them out and water them generously. Before long they send up their sturdy greens and add an organized look to the garden scene. Onions put their energy into growing the greens during the summer and it is the robustness of the greens that determines the size of the onion. About the time the daylight is at its longest, the onion sends the acquired energy above to the awaiting onion bulb production below. When the tops of the onions brown a bit and fall over, it is time for harvesting. We pull up the onions and let them dry in the sun for a few hours. Storage onions need a bit of curing time before being set in their winter storage place. We bring the onions up to the attic of the shop and lay them out to dry for a couple of weeks. It is a true picture of wealth. They can be eaten at any time.

Onion Soup

Underlined ingredients are ours or local.

This recipe is a combination of one told to me long ago and one by a good friend, Michele Beemer. It is more guideline than a true recipe, depending on how much soup you wish to make or how many sprouting onions you need to use up!

Stephen Moore

onions
butter/olive oil
water, vegetable or chicken broth
soy sauce or tamari
salt & pepper to taste

Melt butter and/or olive oil in the bottom of a soup pot. Slice up enough onions to fill at least half of your soup pot. I cut the onions in half first and then slice them. Bring the onions to a simmer and let them cook covered and slowly for at least an hour. Stir occasionally to keep them from sticking. Add enough water, vegetable or chicken broth to cover onions by about an inch or two, stir well. Add soy sauce to taste, I would probably use about ¼ cup to 2 quarts of water/broth. The soy sauce will give the soup a rich color and add saltiness to the soup. Add more salt and/or pepper to taste. If you can wait until the next day to serve this soup, it really gets better with age. When serving, lay a piece of homemade toast in the bottom of the bowl, fill with the soup, and top with grated cheese. A combination of cheddar and Jarlsberg is nice. Enjoy by the fire!

Has anyone found any wild ramps yet? How are you cooking with them?

— Wendy G. Jensen
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An Interview with Bill Shein, Candidtae for US House

by Jonah Carlson

When redistricting fashioned a brand-new congressional district in Western Massachusetts this year, two Democratic candidates began primary challenges to Representative Richard Neal, a twelve-term incumbent from Springfield. One of these men is Andrea Nuciforo Jr., a former State Senator from Pittsfield. The other is Bill Shein, an Alford author and former Monterey resident who organized the Occupy Berkshires movement this fall.

Shein has a long history as an activist and satirist. He has written jokes for Al Franken, run a mock campaign for president in 2004 as 'Will Markson' in an effort to increase voter turnout, and authored a semi-regular column for the *Berkshire Eagle*, among other things. His most recent writing endeavors include a website (Reason Gone Mad) and an upcoming book (*Democracil: The Prescription for America*). According to Shein's website, "He rents a small house, grows some vegetables, and raises ducks."

He is not only up against two other candidates, but also a mountain of opposition money. Neal has a $2.4 million war chest, and Nuciforo ranks second in the race in cash-on-hand. Other obstacles to victory include low name recognition for Shein, who has never held elected office. Nevertheless, the self-styled reform candidate is enthusiastic about his prospects on September 6, when Democratic voters go to the polls. A wealth of information is available on www.billshein.com, but I delved deeper into his campaign experience and political positions in a recent interview. The following is an excerpt from my interview with him. The complete version is available at www.politicalmusingsfrommonterey.com.

In a competitive three-man race, what is your path to victory? What voting blocs will put you over the top?

Western Massachusetts has a long tradition of supporting progressive ideas and candidates. As the only full-throated advocate for progressive political and economic reform in this race, my support is, and will be, broad-based and not limited to any particular geographic region or voting bloc. . . . In the new age of big-money and Super PACs, my argument that we can't keep electing the same kind of people, in the same kind of way, who rely on the same corporate and lobbyist money, is resonating. That I offer such a stark contrast to the old way of doing things is what will put my campaign over the top on September 6.

How many towns have you visited so far? Which ones are next on your itinerary?

I've promised to visit all of the eighty-six cities and towns in the new First Congressional District. Don't have a total yet, but would guess we've been to about a quarter of [them]. Stay tuned for a map on our website that keeps track.

You've worked on campaigns before. Is there anything about this one that has been surprising and different?

One substantial difference is the availability of Internet and software tools that allow us to reach lots of people without great expense. We're only accepting small contributions of $99 or less, and not raising any money from corporate interests or lobbyists. So our volunteer-fueled campaign, combined with web and social-media tools, means we don't need big money to win.

Which set of experiences do you think will be most valuable to you in Congress: your writing career, or your time as an Occupy organizer?

As a writer, I've always tried to find creative ways to popularize ideas and highlight absurdities in politics and public policy. And creativity is in short supply in Congress these days. My work with Occupy has also shown me that we need to empower people to make change

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right now in their communities, and that it doesn't always have to be through electoral politics. . . . That those with economic power can so effectively use their financial resources to distort our democracy for their own economic ends is now painfully clear. My experiences as a writer and activist will be useful in popularizing the ideas we need to address that core problem and many others.

What is the first bill you will sponsor as a member of Congress?

My goodness, there are so many things we need to advance! . . . First, after joining the Congressional Progressive Caucus the moment I take office, I'll immediately put forward a democracy agenda that includes sponsoring or cosponsoring legislation to overturn *Citizens United* and make clear that corporations aren't people; enact robust public financing of federal elections; ban members of Congress from becoming lobbyists, as well as ban campaign contributions from lobbyists; enact universal, automatic voter registration, and advance a Right-to-Vote Amendment to the Constitution.

On your website, you call yourself a bold, progressive candidate. Are there issues on which you can see yourself working together with Republicans?

Yes, many. . . . I believe my focus on "local" will present opportunities to work with legislators across the spectrum, as ultimately we need national policies that enable change at the local level. . . . [I'll] champion democracy reforms that Democrats and Republicans will know are about living up to our democratic ideals. . . . Finally, as a member of Congress, I will not campaign against other members of the House and Senate. It's simply impossible to build or maintain working relationships after you campaign against colleagues during election season. When you return to the Congress, how can you possibly work together in earnest? It's a poisonous atmosphere already, and today's campaigns only make it worse.

What is your position on free trade agreements?

I believe free trade agreements move us in the wrong direction on many fronts. While they are presented as job creators, e.g., enabling expanded exports, the data show that they are almost always net job killers. And they do not focus our economic development efforts in the right place, and that's in building robust local enterprise.

What specific measures do you advocate to address climate change?

The simple truth is this: We must put a price on carbon. Period. It is no longer acceptable to "externalize" the cost of pumping carbon into the atmosphere so that it's not reflected in a profit-and-loss statement. We have to change our psychology, and so we can start with a low price. . . . Many of the things that are good for our economy and our communities—notably focusing on "local" with vigor—will help us move in the right direction on fossil-fuel usage and climate change. On a related front, here's something you likely won't hear from other federal candidates this year: We need to begin a national conversation about what will replace an economy based on endless consumption of finite resources and an endless, unquestioned, growth-at-any-cost economic model. We live on a finite planet with finite natural resources. While economic growth has provided many things, it is not a model that works for the long term.

What is your message to undecided voters?

I'd say this: We're going to send a Democrat to Congress next January to represent the new First District of western Massachusetts. That is certain. The question is, what kind of Democrat? . . . Only one candidate in this race has been an uncompromised and consistent advocate for fixing what's broken in our democracy and pushing back against the corporate interests that undermine fairness. . . . Will we send to the Congress someone who is not a typical politician, and who will continue the progressive tradition of Rep. John Olver, and go even further as an outspoken advocate for substantial political and economic change? Given the very clear choice, I'm confident those who are undecided will join our campaign.

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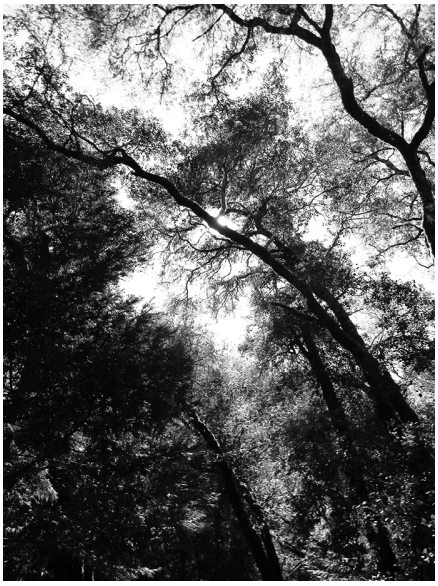

Mary Kate Jordan

From the Meetinghouse . . .

The Standing People

The photograph above could be a medical image: an interior shot of blood vessels in a lung. But it's not, exactly. It's trees, those tall, woody plants we sometimes take for granted because we live among so many of them.

Here in Monterey, as well as where this photo was taken in northern California, it's easy to just shrug and accept that trees gift us with shade, with eye-easing green, with firewood and building material. It's easy to overlook the way they anchor the soil, the way the hardwoods feed the forest with their leaves after they provide us, and the drive-through urban leaf-peepers, with autumn splendor. It's easy to forget that we wouldn't be here long without them.

I'm not talking about aesthetics or a moral high side. I don't mean, wouldn't it be awful if these hills were clear-cut, although it certainly would. I'm saying, without the trees, we wouldn't live long.

We know, in non-science-speak, that trees exhale the oxygen we breathe. In other words, they function as part of a set of lungs which make our lives on this planet possible. The carbon dioxide we exhale offers the trees some of what they need for life, too. Doesn't that make us part of the lung function that makes their lives possible? Aren't we and they, metaphorically at least, two parts of Earth's air-breathing organ?

In that sense, this actually is a photo of blood vessels in a lung. But it's a lung that's not mine, not yours. Like the air we and the trees exchange, it's ours.

Spiritual traditions speak of a life behind our lives, owned by none and which parents and animates us all. Mulling on that, I noticed that this photo of trees includes a glimpse of sky, that mixture of gases that shows blue when we see deeply into the clear atmosphere. That blue heaven made of air which, like the earth, is neither mine nor yours, but ours.

I offer this prayer of my heart: good health for our individual bodies and for the larger body of life on Earth in which we participate. Long life and a happy Earth Day to us all, we Two-Leggeds, the Four-Leggeds, the Fishes, the Winged Ones, and especially to the Standing People, the Trees.

— Mary Kate Jordan

Bidwell House Summer

The Bidwell House board and staff are pleased to share plans for the coming season, the museum's 22nd, and invite all residents and friends to visit their history museum this year.

The season will begin on Sunday of Memorial Day weekend with "Songs of Home and Hearth," a concert singer-songwriter Diane Taraz, followed by a reception to celebrate the museum opening. Many events are planned throughout the summer and fall. Here are some highlights.

On Saturday, July 7, all residents of Monterey and Tyringham and their friends are invited to Township No. 1 Day, a community open house celebration with fun and exciting goings-on for all ages.

Saturday, August 11, is the date for the Bidwell House summer garden party fundraiser, at a special location.

Lots of interesting talks, walks and workshops are planned as well. Details will be in future issues of the *News*.

Become a member! Your local history museum would love to have you join the friends of the museum. Memberships are just $35 for an individual, $75 for a family. Members visit the museum for free, get discounts at events, and receive our informative newsletter and invitations to all parties. Most importantly, your membership helps keep the museum going strong. Please visit our website: www.bidwellhousemuseum.org. Thank you.

— Barbara Palmer, Executive Director

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We Need Town Nurse

To the Editor:

With great interest I have been following the debate of a town nurse position. I am a nursing professor and advanced practice psychiatric mental health nurse. For the past fifty years my family has enjoyed the beauty and peacefulness of this community. We built a small retirement home here. Many of our friends (since childhood) also plan to retire here; they are primarily baby boomers.

Along with aging come various health concerns. Prevention and early recognition of health issues is most important. If we do develop a chronic illness, or are hospitalized, it is important that we are assessed for any complications. A nurse can also provide education and support. Someone suggested that it might be better to have a program that gives people a ride to the doctor. What they don't understand is that a town nurse's assessment could prevent a visit to the doctor. How easy is it for a patient just released from the hospital to go out to a doctor's office? If the nurse finds something that is abnormal she can inform the doctor, and he may just need to adjust the person's medication. Having a town nurse who establishes relationships with the community residents would be invaluable.

A census statistic stated that 8 percent of the population in Monterey are over 65 and live alone. There are approximately 1,000 people in the town, which means that there are 80 people in that situation. Most insurance policies do not provide visiting nurse follow-up for any extended time. How assuring it would be to know that a professional nurse would come to your home and make sure you are doing well. A town nurse could also organize initiatives for all ages to promote healthy living. I applaud the efforts of Kathy Tyron for trying to make our community a healthier and more supportive place to live.

— Elizabeth Drummond, Monterey

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Town Employee Compensation

To the Editor:

I would like to comment on the letters to the editor in the March *Monterey News* concerning our town employee compensation. I disagree with the views expressed, at least in regard to the police and highway departments. We offer our highway and police employees a pay and benefits package that exceeds compensation paid in our surrounding towns. A comparison search proved this.

The authors of these letters suggest that our town is unique and that there are "huge differences" in job classifications and descriptions compared with the other towns. This is totally false. It snows in the winter, and rains in the summer, the brush grows into our roadways, and potholes need to be fixed here as in nearby towns. As far as the police department, chasing speeders and stray dogs, responding to false alarms, and assisting motorists who have locked themselves out of their vehicles are activities that policemen in our neighboring towns also routinely perform. I happen to observe the tasks of other town employees and they do exactly duplicate our work .

Our employees enjoy a relaxed work schedule and workload when compared to employees in the private sector. This is a very common feeling among residents in town who are in a position to analyze their work. I don't understand how the authors of last month's letters can be so out of touch.

All employees have a right to fight for higher wages, but the people paying those wages need to know that they are competitive.

-- Roger Tryon, Monterey

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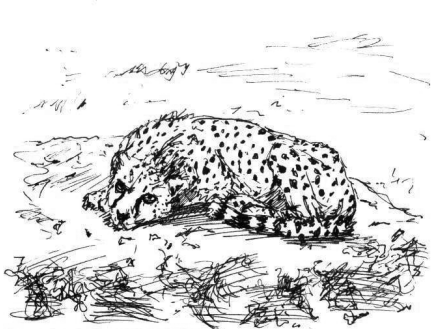

One Last Hike

Sanjiban was well into his journey to the end before most of us realized it had begun. For months, he appeared to be struggling with a debilitating case of depression, as the tumor wound itself around the filaments in his brain. A week before the revised diagnosis, on Thanksgiving Day 2011, he decided he wanted to have a family hike to a special place we know as "The Pinnacle," which was the setting for one of his movies years ago—*Pinnacle Man*. Cousins from the West Coast were visiting that week and so a merry band of ten set out on a beautiful sunny morning, bound for the edge of the world.

He put blue carpenter tape around his ankles to keep the ticks at bay; his twin brother did the same. Then he picked up his Nordic walking sticks, for balance and support, similar to his wife's set—what a pair. As he led the way, we ran into other family members and friends, also bound for the same sacred spot. They would be just a few of many who would wrap their arms around our family in the months to come. At the top, he pointed out the trees from the film that he and Cousin Sam scaled years ago. We found the metal hook drilled into the rock, where the infamous ladder hung; his presence is everywhere, for generations to come.

Sanjiban Sellew died on February 28, 2012. His death certificate says February 29, a fitting date for the Restless Rascal, an affectionate title for an eccentric artist and entertainer. Our family confronted the process of death and farewell with our usual outside-the-box mentality, influenced by Sanjiban's preferences and personality. A young freelance filmmaker, Ben, entered our lives right after Sanijban died, as if by his design. Ben had entered a film challenge, to make a five-to-seven-minute documentary in five days; the prompt was biography and he was looking for a subject. He captured our process of saying good-bye without ever getting too close. Sanjiban starred in this final film; he had no lines, but it was one of his best performances. It was one-take scenes with no script, exactly what he would have wanted for his final venture—all improvisation, all emotion, and all heart. The film is simply titled *Sanjiban*.

The festival of Sanjiban's films at the Mahawie, just days after his death, brought us all together, and the roller coaster of emotions made it feel incredibly surreal. The programming celebrated his tremendous heart, artistic abilities, mischievous nature, and quirky style through twin brother John's welcome, a reading of two of Sanjiban's short stories, cousin Sam's reflections, and, of course, a selection of his films—including *Pinnacle Man* and *Road Kill Revival*, my personal favorite. Although I grew up watching Sanjiban's movies, I'm just realizing how much wisdom they collectively contain and will offer for years to come. Sanjiban helped plan the festival, and, as John remarked, the only detail that really changed was that Sanjiban wasn't able to attend.

The final part of the festival consisted of two segments. The first, a celebration of Sanjiban's life and work, featured footage from the early years, including some of his first camera footage ever shot. Blending seamlessly with footage from his short films, thanks to John's diligent editing, they told the story of a man who always had a story and unique message to share with the world. Larry Burke's segment also used clips from Sanjiban's films, along with recent footage taken after his diagnosis, to chronicle his journey to the end—many shots showed Sanjiban walking away into the woods. Oddly symbolic, it brought me back to our hike and made me wonder if Sanjiban subconsciously knew he was nearing a fork in the road.

As the crowd in the theater stood to give him a standing ovation, they directed their attention and energy toward where the family was sitting; to be on the receiving end was indescribably powerful. It felt like a wave of energy lifting us up and washing over us. I can only imagine that maybe it felt much like the one Sanjiban experienced from the community as he prepared to face what was ahead—the outpouring of love and support.

After the screening, I was drawn outside the theater by the sound of drums, almost as if Sanjiban was pulling me by the hand. I watched as people gathered around plastic-pail drums, on the sidewalk, pounding their raw emotions out for the world to hear. I fell asleep as a child listening to the sound of drumming men on Friday evenings behind my house. It was so perfectly fitting. Sanjiban smiled down on all of us that day as we laughed, cried, and celebrated his life. This event would not have happened without John Valente, who helped coordinate this tremendous effort, and Michael Ballon, who hosted the reception at Castle Street Café. We

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had a safe space in the community to experience the emotional whirlwind of Sanjiban's departure.

Returning home from DC that Thursday evening, I arrived in time to put my hand on his still heart and stand around him with family as we said our good-byes. While I wish I had seen him one last time, I remember him as sitting on the edge of his bed, beaming at me as I walked through the door that last time in February. "You good girl," he would always say to me when I shared my most recent adventures and exploits in the big world far from home. He was always so proud of whatever I was doing, and I can only hope he had some inkling of how proud I was of him with the way he shared his emotions and wrestled with the inevitability of death. Sometimes he worried he wasn't dying very well, and I would always wonder if anyone really did know how to die well. His example is one that touched many people, changing our perception of death and goodbye.

Looking back, after everything that's happened, that Thanksgiving Day hike was so special. It was our last time together outdoors, as a family. If I close my eyes, I picture him up in front of us, ski pole in front of ski pole. His stride is uneven, but he still walks determinedly ahead, into the woods—much as he did in Larry's film segment. He is the joyous adventurer, the wanderer, the enigma, and the truth teller. Rest in peace dear Sanjiban; your stories live on and you'll be forever in our memories and close to our hearts.

— Tarsi Dunlop

ॐ

Cynthia Atwood

Remembering Sanjiban Sellew

Sanjiban Sellew, much-beloved Berkshire filmmaker, artist, actor, and all-around character passed away at home on Tuesday night, February 28. In December, he had been diagnosed with a fast-growing brain tumor and decided to forgo treatment and return home and live out his days surrounded by family and friends . . . and surrounded he has been!

Sellew, 58, son of Catherine L. Spadaccini and Welles H. Sellew, grew up in New Marlborough with his twin brother, John, and sister Susan. In 1985 he married the love of his life, artist Cynthia Atwood, in Golden Gate Park. They later left San Francisco to make their home in New Marlborough.

He attended local schools and became an accomplished cabinetmaker, but his heart and soul were always in his filmmaking. He said that he became a filmmaker on the day in the mid-1970s when his guru Sri Chimnoy handed him a box with a Super 8 camera inside and said, "Entertain us and the world."

Sellew's quirky and tender films as well as his performance art have been seen by audiences at the Berkshire International Film Festival, Made in the Berkshires, Mixed Company, and numerous other places. His list of short films is long and includes *Pinnacle Man*, *Self Arrest, Not Me, Animal Tricks, I've Got Mail, One on None, and The Fight That Never Ends*.

John Valente, general manager of the Beacon and Triplex Cinemas, says that Sellew's films are "energetic, bold, and sometimes downright odd, but are made with courage and vision, beholden to no one's expectations but his own."

Sellew received nine national film awards in Super 8 filmmaking and has been a finalist nineteen times in national and international film/digital competitions.

He leaves his wife of 26 years, Cynthia Atwood; twin brother, John Sellew; sister, Susan Sellew; nieces Tarsi Dunlop, Oona Sellew, Julia Bronson, Isabel Bronson; nephew Brendon Franz; and so many, many close friends and relatives.

The family is humbled and awed by the outpouring of love and support from the community. To see Sanjiban's films, go to www.sanjibanfilms.com.

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March 2012 Wildlife Report

March has been a fine month for bird sightings, all sizes and all quantities. Early in the month I watched a flock of snow geese, early in the morning. They were way up high, yapping like small dogs, catching the morning sun over our upper pasture. There were seventy of them.

Mike Banner saw a record number of turkeys on March 8 crossing Sandisfield Road. He says there were fifty turkeys, and no traffic, fortunately. Will Marsh is our reliable turkey vulture reporter and saw his first pair of the year, circling the house on March 3. They were catching thermal updrafts, soaring. Will also came upon a fine ruffed grouse (photo), hit on the road. These grey, white, tawny birds are pretty big and easy to mistake for a hawk of some kind. You have to look at the feet, which are those of a pedestrian chicken, not a raptorial bird of prey. Also the beak is not so much for ripping up meat.

Down on Lake Garfield, Delight Dodyk reports the local mergansers are thriving with a recent sighting of "a flock of at least 16 pair of common mergansers swimming around and diving in open water."

Sally Pullen went for a walk on New Marlborough Road and heard a barred owl, which is the one that seems to ask, "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you-all?" This call went out in broad daylight on March 24.

Over in western Monterey, Dianna Downing has seen the familiar gray squirrels, plus one rare black one: "sleek, very black, and beautiful." She has seen a dusky version before, not such a deep black.

Glynis Marsh

Also in the mammals department, Steve Moore came upon a double homicide along the roadside. Investigation shows a long-tailed weasel first grabbed an early-emerged chipmunk, and slipped across the road taking home the bacon. Not quick enough, though, because another agent came by in metal and wheels and put them both down into what Steve refers to as "a gravel nap."

Carol Ingher saw a coyote as she headed east for home on Route 23. This was near Butternut, and she says the animal's coat was black and white and rust, about thirty pounds. She also has furbearers supplying nesting material to tenants in her compost pile. She found two nests there, one of gray fur and the other of golden retriever fur. We are betting on mice.

The bobcat report this month comes from Suzanne Sawyer on March 6. This cat was in no hurry and Suzanne watched it "meander across our yard to the neighbors' and across the street.... It was sitting at the end of our driveway in the back of the house, then walked across the back to the swing set and up. It was so relaxed looking, taking its time."

Send me your sightings, and many thanks.

— Bonner McAllester
528-9385, bmca@berkshire.net

April 16 Deadline for Youth Cultural Enrichment Grants

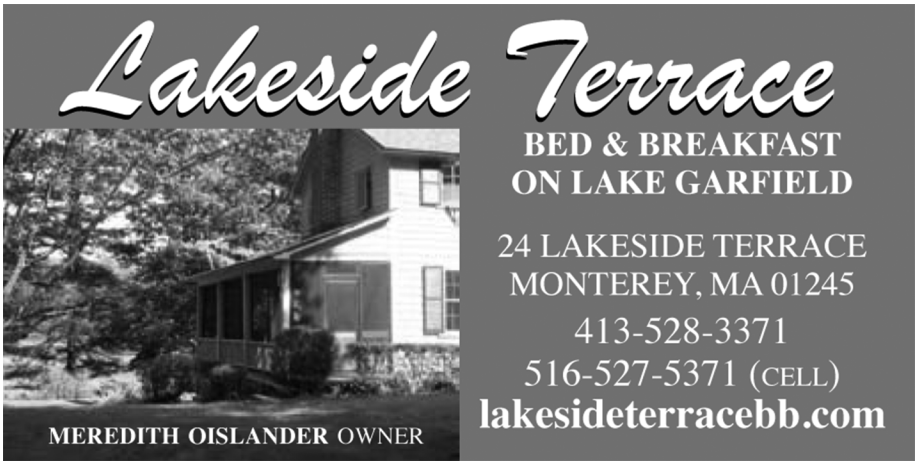
April 16 is the deadline for applications to the Simple Gifts Fund, which awards grants to young people ages 8–21 for participation in cultural or creative summer programs, such as theater internships, music or art camps, or language immersion programs. Residents of Berkshire, Columbia, northeast Dutchess, and northwest Litchfield counties may apply.

The fund is administered by Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. Applications are available online at www.berkshiretaconic.org/grantseekers.

The Simple Gifts Fund was established in honor of Bill Crofut by his family. Bill was a beloved local folk singer who died in 1999. He wanted to help young people achieve their dreams.

Sunday Softball Now in Play

Monterey Sunday Softball has taken advantage of the unusual weather to have the earliest start of a season ever. All able-bodied adult softball players are welcome. Games are held at Greene Park behind Town Hall on Route 23 every Sunday and holiday at 10:30 am, with batting practice at 10. Bats and balls are provided; rubber cleats are recommended.



Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, Town Hall, 9 am.

Every Tuesday: Zumba Class, 5:30–6:30 pm, Monterey Firehouse. $10/class.

Every Sunday: Softball, 10:30 am, Greene Park.

Early April: Meeting for those interested in supporting the Ron Paul 2012 Presidential Campaign - exciting events happening in Massachusetts and beyond. For more information, please call 528-6307

Through Saturday, April 28: *Monterey on Display*, a presentation of old photographs and maps by the Monterey Historical Society, Knox Gallery at Monterey Library.

Thursday, April 5: Free Blood Pressure Clinic , Town Hall, 2–3 pm.

Saturday, April 7: Volunteers needed to help with ice rink breakdown, 10 am, Monterey Firehouse pavilion.

Sunday, April 8: Easter Egg Hunt, 2 pm, Monterey Library lawn.

Monday, April 16:

Patriots Day; Town Hall, Library closed.

Deadline for applications to the Simple Gifts Fund, which awards grants to young people ages 8–21 for participation in cultural or creative summer programs. See p. 26.

Wednesday, April 18: Community Potluck Dinner, 6 pm, Monterey Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Susan Bachelder will discuss history and art of handwriting. Everyone welcome. See p. 11.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be left in the drop box on the loading dock of the General Store. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or e-mail montereynews9@gmail.com.

Saturday, April 21:

Planning meeting for August Monterey Fest, 9:30–11 am, Monterey Library.

Guitarist, singer, Songwriter Jay Mankita in concert, 7 pm, Knox Trail Inn, East Otis. Free, sponsored by Otis Cultural Council.

Monday, April 23: Adult book group will discuss *Soil and Soul* by Alastair McIntosh, 7:30 pm, Monterey Library. Newcomers welcome.

Friday, April 27: Informational meeting on annual town meeting warrant, 7 pm, Monterey Firehouse.

Saturday, April 28: Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 pm, Dewey Hall, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel, caller Bill Olson. All dances are taught; beginners and children are welcome. Adults $8–10, children $5. Information 528-9385.

Tuesday, May 1: Deadline for applications for McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarships. See p. 14.

Saturday, May 5: Annual Town Meeting 9:30, Monterey Firehouse.

Tuesday, May 8: Town Officer Election, Monterey Firehouse. See p. 8.

The Observer
February 26–March 25

High temp. (3/19) ..... 77°
Low temp. (3/6) ..... 12°
Avg. high temp. ..... 52.1°
Avg. low temp. ..... 29.2°
Avg. temp. ..... 40.7°
(8° higher than last March)
Total precipitation
(rain and melted snow) ..... 1.64 in.
Snowfall ..... 9.3 in.
Precipitation occurred on 12 days.
Total snow for season so far ..... 61.7 in.
(yearly average is 90 in.)

Contributors

We thank the following folks for their recent contributions. Your support makes it possible for us to keep going.

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